



September 2020

Good News

Mt Zion – St Luke Lutheran

September 2020

- 9-1 Centering Prayer 8:30 a.m.
Social distancing required
- 9-2 Bible Study 7:00 p.m.
Social distancing required
- 9-6 Zoom SS 9am; Worship 1:00 a.m.
Masks and social distancing required. Online Option available
- 9-8 Centering Prayer 8:30 a.m.
- 9-9 Bible Study 7:00 p.m.
Social distancing required
- 9-13 Zoom SS 9a;Worship 11:00 a.m.
Masks and social distancing required. Online Option available.
- 9-14 Quilting at 10 a.m.
- 9-15 Centering Prayer 8:30 a.m.
Social distancing required
- 9-16 Bible Study 7:00 p.m.
Social distancing required
- 9-20 Zoom SS 9am; Worship 11:00am
Masks and social distancing Online Option available. No Family Day. Newsletter Deadline
- 9-22 Centering Prayer 8:30 a.m.
Social distancing required
- 9-23 Bible Study 7:00 p.m.
Social distancing required
- 9-27 Zoom SS 9am;Worship 11:00 am
Masks and social distancing required. Online Option available.
- 9-29 Centering Prayer 8:30 a.m.
Social distancing required
- 9-30 Bible Study 7:00 p.m.
Social distancing required

Leap of Faith...

The story is told of a man who was taking a walk on a steep mountain path. All of a sudden, the path under his feet crumbled and broke away. The man began to slip and slide down the face of the mountain, tumbling towards the rocks far below, and certain death. The man wildly for a handhold, and to his great relief, caught a branch sticking out of a cleft in the rock. He clung to the branch for dear life while he took stock of his situation. It looked grim, indeed. The branch would not hold him for long and there were no other people around for miles. So, the man began to pray. "Oh, dear God," he cried. "please help me!" And God answered him with a question. "Do you have faith in me?" "Yes, Lord!" the man cried. "I do have faith in you!" Good." said God. "Then, let go of the branch." The man was silent for a moment, then asked in a tiny voice, "Is there anybody else up there?"



I have a good chuckle every time I hear that story, but it also makes me think deeply about who God is for me. Because, Life is like that. One minute you are walking along, right as rain, enjoying the scenery, and the next minute, Wham! you're hanging on by your fingernails! And, when those terrifying moments come – when you don't know how much longer you can hang on – the last thing you want is to be put to the test by the one person you cried out to save you. And is it really all up to *me* to get myself out of a jam? What if my faith isn't strong enough? What if my answer is a quaking, "Is there anybody else up there?" Would God leave me hanging there?

I have been a lifelong believer. I feel my faith is quite strong. Yet, I know that if *I* were dangling from a slender branch over a deep ravine and in answer to my pray I heard God say "Let go." *my* tendency would be to grasp that branch even more tightly and scream, "What???" I mean, God gave me a fine mind, and I know that gravity works! Does that mean my faith is weak or that I don't trust God to take care of me? Not at all! My God is not one who will ask superhuman strength from me in order to prove how powerful he is, but one whose strength is made perfect in my weakness. My God may not always save me *physically* when Life happens, but will always be there to comfort me, heal me, lift me up and take me home to live with him when the time is right. So, when Life happens, like with what we are all enduring right now, it is ok not to be ok. All we have to do is to keep reminding ourselves that God is in control, does hear our cries *and is acting* to save us from falling, whether we can let go of the branch or not.

May you find peace in the middle of this chaos in knowing that you don't need anyone else up there. Our God is sufficient for all our needs. Amen to that! God bless you all, **Pastor Barb** <><

But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." 2 Corinthians 12:9

Schedule for Serving Our Lord in September

Ushers	Jim Trask & Jimmy Watson
Altar Guild	Bobby Martin & Max Wood
Lectors	Jon Coogle & Katie Felker

Family Day: *No Family Day Meal until further notice.*

Coffee Hour: *No Coffee Hour until further notice.*

Flowers:

9-6 Julia Snipes in honor of our military.

9-13 Jamey and Angela Cannon in honor of Aiden, Kelsi, Haley, Christian, Aubrey and Landon.

9-20 Jamey and Angela Cannon in memory of our grandparents.

9-29 Grady and Patsy in memory of Miss Ruth Kleckley

Soup Kitchen: *No Soup Kitchen until further notice.*

Sunday School: *No Sunday School until further notice.*

September Birthdays and Anniversaries

9-3 Ted & Mary Lynn Robinson

9-4 Nancy McCarty

9-9 Gary & Kay Blymire

9-10 John Hammock

9-10 Aiden Hobbs

9-13 Bobby Moretz

9-14 Courtney Coogle

9-16 Scarlet Elizabeth Cazier

9-21 Jim & Franchelle Arnold

9-22 Judy Shearon

9-25 Mack McCarty

9-26 Riley Marie Coogle

9-27 Tommy Martin



Please Note! All August activities subject to change depending on Covid-19 reports. Check emails regularly for updates.

September 2020

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
		1 Centering Prayer 8:30 a.m. Social distancing required	2 Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Social distancing required	3	4	5
6 Zoom Sunday School 9a.m. Worship Service 11:00 a.m. Masks and social distancing required	7	8 Centering Prayer 8:30 a. Social distancing required.	9 Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Social distancing required	10	11	12
13 Zoom Sunday School 9a.m. Worship Service 11:00 a.m. Masks and social distancing required.	14 Quilting 10 a.m. Social distancing required.	15 Centering Prayer 8:30 a. Social distancing required.	16 Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Social distancing required	17	18	19
20 Zoom Sunday School 9a.m. Worship Service 11:00 a.m. Masks and social distancing required Newsletter Deadline	21	22 Centering Prayer 8:30 a. Social distancing required.	23 Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Social distancing required	24	25	26
27 Zoom Sunday School 9a.m. Worship Service 11:00 a.m. Masks and social distancing required	28	29 Centering Prayer 8:30 a. Social distancing required.	30 Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Social distancing required			

Results of the Vote at the Called Congregation Meeting on August 2, 2020.

Dear Members of MZSL, thank you to all who were able to attend the August 2nd Called Congregational Meeting, either in person or by speaker phone. The meeting was called to consider a recommendation from our Property Committee that we contract with Luke Yoder and company to repair outside areas on the front of the sanctuary, update our bathrooms to be Handicap accessible, build a Handicap ramp from the sanctuary to the Lingle Room and upgrade the plumbing in the Lingle Room. Funds for the work would be covered by a withdrawal from the Heglar Fund, a gift to the congregation years ago. We had a quorum and the proposal passed.

Our Property Chair, Joe McNutt and our Council Chairperson, Jon Coogle are working with Luke Yoder to formally contract for the work to be done. We do not know at this writing a timeline of the work to be done, but we will update you as information becomes available.

David Haigler Elected to the Executive Committee of our Southeastern Synod!

In 2019, you may recall that David Haigler was elected to serve on Synod Council and was installed at Synod Assembly in June of that year. This year, David has been elected to serve on the Executive Committee of the Council – an important role that we know David will fill in his usual efficient and trustworthy way. Congratulations David! We know you will represent us well!

David will be writing an article in this newsletter on occasion to update us as to important information that comes from the Bishop's Office and giving us his take on things. You can also go to the synod website and see what is happening around our synod yourself by following this link: www.elca-ses.org.

Sunday School Update

In talking with our teachers and Angela Cannon, Chair of the Christian Education Committee, the consensus is that we will not resume in-person Sunday School for K-12 students in September. We know how important Bible Study is for our children's Faith Formation, and with that in mind, Renee Collier will be sending a link to parents and grandparents so they may do pre-planned and easy to follow online studies with their children at home. We will continue to assess the situation monthly and pray that we can return to classes in the Parrish House soon.

The Sunday School class that meets in the Lingle room also will not be resuming classes in September. David Haigler and Jon Coogle will let you know when it will be time to resume that class. In the meantime, the quarterly study guide for that class is available for participants who would like to study at home. Others may also pick up a copy until the books run out. Call Tracy at the Church Office if you want to pick up a copy.

Wendi Martin's Sunday School class has chosen to meet via Zoom Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. All are welcome to join. If you want to be added to the invitation so you can join them by Zoom, please call or text Wendi Martin at (478) 957-6614.

The Wednesday Evening Bible Study Resumes September 1st at 7:00 p.m in the Lingle Room.

The Wednesday evening Bible Study led by Pastor Barb is returning to the series they had begun just before everything closed down. The Series is called Soul Keeping. Author John Ortberg says "The soul is the coolest, eeriest, most mysterious, evocative, crucial, sacred, eternal, life-directing, fragile, indestructible, controversial, expensive dimension of your existence. Jesus said it's worth more than the world. You'd be an idiot not to prize it above all else. Shouldn't you get pretty clear on exactly what it is?" Come, join us Wednesday evenings at 6:00 p.m. in the Lingle Room to learn more about your own soul and how to take good care of it! *Masks and Social Distancing is Required.*

Clearview Mennonite Church has cancelled the Widows and Widowers celebration.

Happenings and Resources from the Bishop's Office

1. *An Invitation from Bishop Strickland:*

Greetings! This is Bishop Kevin Strickland. I am putting together a synod prayer team. This team will meet with me once a month via zoom to pray. Praying for the needs of ourselves, our neighbors locally and globally, the needs of the church and world, and for what else might be in need that day of prayer.

Please feel free to sign up at any time on our synod website <https://www.elca-ses.org>.

You will then receive the zoom link for the prayer team. We will meet 9:00-10:00am EDT on

September 21st October 19th November 16th December 14th

+ *In Christ, Bishop Kevin Strickland*

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything make your requests to God...by prayer, (Phil. 4: 6-7)

2. *A Ministry Opportunity!*

Our Southeastern Synod is hosting a *Virtual Gala* to raise funds for the MILAGRO Women's Education Center, a ministry of our companion synod, Iglesia Luterana Agustina de Guatemala, which educates young women (13-26 y/o) from rural Guatemala communities. The virtual gala will be held Saturday, September 12th at 7:00 p.m. You can watch from home while enjoying your favorite Guatemalan food. More details about the event are available by visiting the website, <https://iglesialuteranaagustina.org/> which features recipes for creating your own Guatemalan feast at home. Please join us for this special event in support of our friends in Guatemala. Learn More and Give Now at www.elca-ses.org/gala.

Synod Contacts: Assistant to the Bishop [Rev. Jill Henning](#) and [Rev. Stephen Friedrich](#)

3. *Faith Formation Days for Laity:* **Sunday's in October 2020 - 3:00-4:30pm EDT via Zoom**

You may sign up for one or all of these webinars on the synod website, <https://www.elca-ses.org>

October 4 - Worship 101: Why We Do What We Do

October 11 - Say Her Name: Naming the Witness of Nameless Women in the Bible

October 18 - With Glad and Generous Hearts: a Look at Stewardship of Self, Congregation, and Church

October 25 - Telling the Story of Jesus: Evangelism in the 21st Century

Phase 1 Guidelines for In-Person Worship to Continue through September 2020

We continue to assess the Covid 19 situation in our community, consulting with medical professionals, checking state and federal recommendations and our Bishop's Office for guidance. We plan to continue to use the Phase I Guidelines through the month of September and reassess at month's end. We will let you know the plan for October, depending on things go. As a reminder, here are the precautions we have been taking up till now, with no changes yet in how we are doing In-Person Worship. We continue to offer our service live on our Mt. Zion – St. Luke Lutheran Friends Facebook page for those who would like to join us online.

1. Face coverings and social distancing of at least 6 feet in family groups will be required.
2. Hand Sanitizer is at both entrances for your use upon entering the building.
3. Offerings will be placed in the plate at both entrances.
4. Communion will be self-contained individual cups picked up at the entrances.
5. No physical passing of the peace.
6. Face coverings and social distancing of at least 6 feet to be kept *after* the service as well.

Thank you for making a difficult situation easier by your constant support and cooperation with your leadership at MZSL. We value your input. We thank God for you!

Mt. Zion – St. Luke Lutheran Church

P.O. Box 187

401 Randolph Street

Oglethorpe, Georgia 31068

Follow our Face Book Group Page *Mt. Zion – St. Luke Lutheran Friends* to worship online live at 11:00 a.m.! Text or comment Pastor Barb with suggestions as to how to make our new “hybrid” worship experience more meaningful. And as always, please pray for your leadership as we all learn new ways to be the Church!

Don’t forget that there are sermons from Bishop Strickland and other synod staff persons, Covid 19 information and other resources on our synod website: www.elca-ses.org

Help us keep this Prayer List Current! Call the Church Office or Pastor Barb to remove or add to this list.

Please Pray for Members: Franchelle Arnold, Al Coogle; Jon coogle; Brenden Fitzgerald, Jr; Emily Harvill; Myrtle Joiner, Zach Martin; Joe McNutt; Helen Smith, Tricia Trask; Tony Webb and for our college students.

In Christian Sympathy for Patricia and Jim Trask and DC Williams at the loss of their brother, James “Bubba” Smith, for Angie and Heather Summer at the loss of Angie’s father, Larry Hobbes and for the family and friends of James Haugabook..

For Friends and Family: James Edmonton; Langdon Harp; Janice Haugabook; Ricky Haugabook; Sandra and John Homer; Corby McClure; Bob Melvin; Crystal Miller; Buddy Murph; Charlene Oliver; Charles Oliver; Don Oliver; Leigh Powell; Jerry Riddle; Douglas Smith; and Joanne Waymon.

Serving Our Nation: John Edwards